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Texans Expand Westward Once Europeans began to colonize the Americas, wars with American Indians were common. Many of these conflicts, which continued into the 1870s, took place along the Texas frontier.



Formed in 1835, the first task of the **Texas Rangers** was to defend the frontier from Indian raids and Mexican attacks. Then, during the Civil War, frontier defenses weakened. As a result, some Texas Indians were then able to push settlers back. After the war, however, the Rangers expanded into two groups. Some fought Indians in the Frontier Wars. Others fought lawlessness along the border with Mexico.

In 1867, some Plains Indian leaders signed a treaty with American officials. A **treaty** is an agreement between two nations. The Indians agreed to stop raiding settlements and move to reservations in Oklahoma in return for food and supplies. Even so, some Comanches and Kiowas wanted to stay in their traditional homelands. They continued to resist by attacking settlements. Anglo Texans appealed to the federal government to use force. The United States Army was sent in to deal with the Texas Indians.

In 1871, a Kiowa leader named Satanta led a raid that became known as the **Salt Creek Massacre**. Seven Anglos were killed in the raid. This event caused the army to adopt a new policy—to push all American Indians onto reservations. Fighting grew more fierce. In the Panhandle, army troops attacked Indian villages. They destroyed supplies and killed horses. They also killed thousands of buffalo, nearly driving them to **extinction**, or complete destruction. They hoped to cut out the Indians' means of support. Finally, in the winter of 1874–1875, the army defeated the Plains Indians in the Red River War.



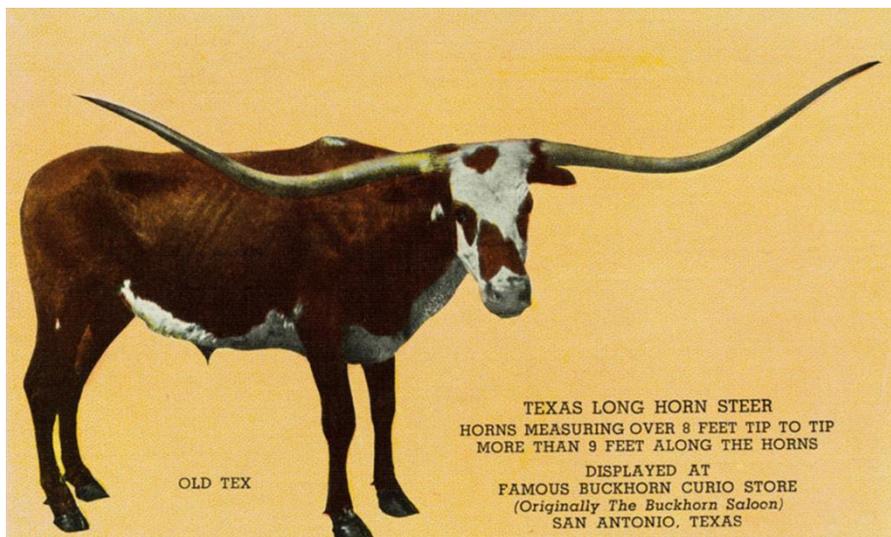
In 1877, the army forced the southern Apaches onto a reservation in Arizona. Conditions there were poor, and many left. A few warriors continued raids until they were forced into Mexico. There, they were defeated.

After 1881, there was no more fighting between American Indians and Anglos in Texas. Unfortunately, most Indians found life on the reservation very difficult. Many died of poverty or disease.

As settlers moved westward, the state's population grew rapidly. New towns were supported by the expansion of railroads and the cotton **industry**. An industry is a group of businesses that offer similar services. By the late 1800s, the frontier in West Texas had disappeared forever.

Cattle Kingdoms and Open Ranges The two breeds of cattle brought by the Spanish and by Anglos mixed to produce the Texas longhorns. When the Civil War ended, there was high demand for Texas cattle. Prices for beef were high in the East. The expansion of railroads across the Mississippi River offered ranchers a profitable way to get their cattle to eastern markets. Texas ranchers began to use cowboys and cattle drives to bring their beef to market. Selling cattle helped revive the economy of Texas.

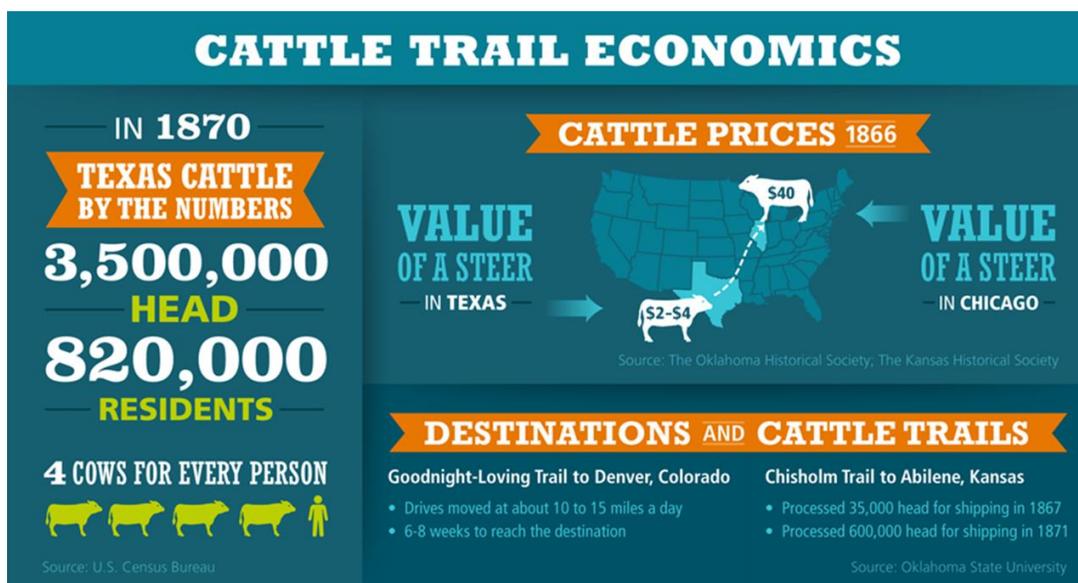
Cattle drives involved about 11 to 18 cowboys driving about 3,000 cattle 10 to 15 miles a day. They drove the herds north to towns on the Great Plains with rail stations. Despite popular ideals, cowboy life on the trail was difficult and dangerous.



The first drive, in 1866, ended in a town in Missouri. Farmers in that state worried that the Texas cattle might carry a disease. They passed **quarantine** laws. Quarantine laws are designed to isolate in order to prevent the spread of disease. The next drive went to Abilene, Kansas. Over time, the cattle drives followed different trails.

Until the mid-1870s, the ranchers of West Texas mostly fed their cattle on the **open range**. This was public land owned by the state. Growth of the railroads helped bring an end to the open range. When railroad companies sold land given to them by the state government, cattle owners began to feel the need to buy land so they would have enough land to feed their herds.

Cattle owners became ranchers. Soon they began putting barbed wire around their land. Some fences closed off roads, preventing other ranchers from moving their herds. **Enclosures**, or fenced-in areas, allowed ranchers to control the breeding of their animals. Some people cut the fences, which angered the ranch owners. Fights often broke out. A new law made it a **felony**—a serious crime that usually results in a jail sentence—to cut a fence. This helped end the fighting.

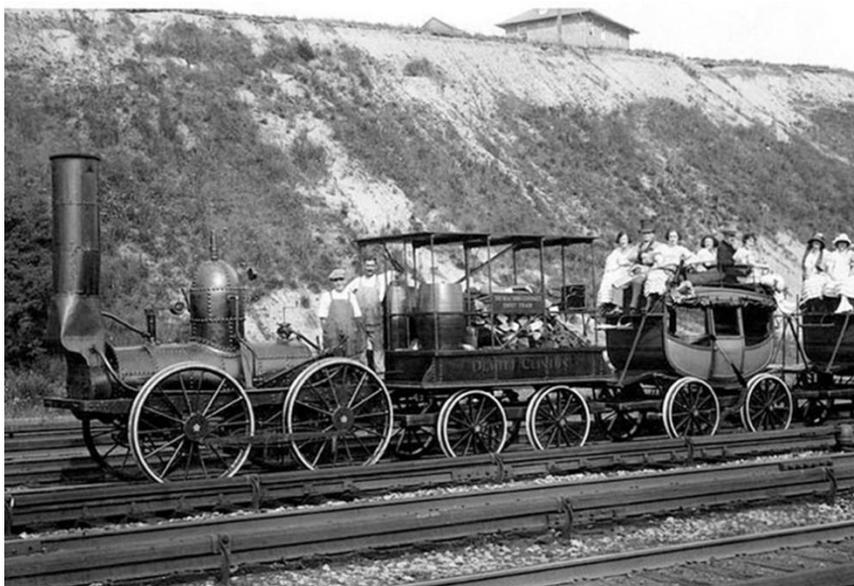


Cattle drives ended because ranchers sent their cattle to market by train. Many people left the cattle business after thousands of cattle died during the winter of 1885 to 1886. Ranchers developed new breeds of cattle that were meatier and better able to resist disease than longhorns. Ranchers split their herds into smaller groups and fenced in just enough land for each group. This was how the modern ranch industry began.

Railroads, Ranches, and Farms Before the Civil War, Texas had few railroads and most served one small area—Houston. Over the next 10 years, railroad companies slowly built tracks across Texas.

Railroads had an effect on farming in Texas. Farmers who grew more than their families could eat now had an easy way to move their crops to buyers—by train. Many farmers began to take up **commercial agriculture**. This is growing crops to sell to make a profit.

During the Civil War, railroad building slowed. The rate of construction was not rapid in the first years after the war, either. In the late 1800s, though, many miles of railroad track were built. In 1852, railroad companies began receiving **land grants**, or blocks of public land, from the government. In 1882,



the system was stopped. By then, railroad companies had received more than 30 million acres of land. By 1900, Texas had more than 10,000 miles of track. The state government and towns took steps to make it easier to build railroads.

In 1873, the rail lines in Texas became connected to the rest of the United States for the first time. Cattle owners started shipping their animals using these rail lines. Railroads also helped spread farming to West Texas. The railroad companies sold their land in that area at very low prices. This area had a drier climate than East Texas, though. Farmers could not grow corn, but they could grow cotton.

Railroads had an effect on the economy as a whole. The railroad companies bought lumber to put up buildings and bridges. This helped create more jobs. Some areas of Texas began to mine coal to run the trains. The railroads brought more workers to Texas. These workers bought food produced by Texas farmers.

Railroads affected the political, economic, and social development of Texas. The work of building the railroads brought different groups of people to the state. Irish and Chinese immigrants, for instance, played a major role in building the rail lines.

The railroads helped the state's economy grow. They brought new settlers to Texas. New towns were built along rail lines, and some existing towns and cities grew larger. Railroads made it faster and easier to travel in Texas.

Travel Time Before and After Trains

BEFORE TRAINS	AFTER TRAINS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wagon trains cover 15–20 miles per day. • Horses travel 5–9 miles per hour. • People travel 3 miles per hour on foot. • Stagecoaches travel 10–12 miles per hour. • Traveling from New York to Chicago via stage coach takes 3 weeks. • Traveling from New York to San Francisco via stagecoach takes 6 months. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trains travel 20–30 miles per hour. • Traveling from New York to Chicago via train takes 72 hours. • Traveling from New York to San Francisco via train takes 1 week.

SOURCES: National Park Service; Hofstra University

The railroads also brought problems, though. Many Texans felt that the people who ran the railroads were greedy. They felt that ordinary Texans suffered as a result.

From Family Farms to Commercial Farming In 1870, life on Texas farms was similar to what it had been before the Civil War. Farmers grew corn to feed their families and livestock. They grew cotton to sell for cash. Most work on the farm was done by hand. These people were practicing subsistence agriculture. That is, they were growing little more than what the family needed to survive.

Starting in the 1870s, large numbers of people came to Texas and bought land to grow cotton. There was high demand for it, it grew well in dry climates, and they could ship it to market using the railroads.



Some of these newcomers became **tenant farmers**. They rented land from a large landowner, paying for its use with a portion of their crop. It was hard to succeed at tenant farming, however. The farmers were always in debt.

In the late 1800s, new settlers poured into West Texas. In the 1880s and 1890s, dry weather returned after several years of rain. Many farmers lost their land. Others were forced to become tenant farmers. By 1900, half the farmers in Texas were tenant farmers.

Some farmers joined together in an organization called the National Grange. Its goal was to help farmers by sharing knowledge and by setting up stores where prices were better for farmers.

By 1880, Texas produced more cotton than any other state. In that decade, an inventor made improvements to the **cotton gin**, the machine that removed seeds from cotton. Cotton growers were able to sell their crops directly to textile mills.

For decades, cotton seeds had been a problem. Growers did not know what to do with them. In the 1870s, though, a new substitute for butter was invented. Called margarine, it used **cottonseed oil**. This created a new way for cotton farmers to make money—by selling the oil from their cotton seeds.



Corn was the next most important crop. By 1900, Texas had about 5 million acres of corn planted. It was used as food for people and feed for animals.

Texas farmers raised several different types of livestock. Many farmers raised hogs. They let them feed on the open range. After the Civil War, the sheep industry grew when sheep ranchers began to raise animals more for their wool than for their meat because of increased demand from northern factories. Some ranchers raised goats. Angora goats produced a fine wool called mohair.